



**Skinner Street  
United Reformed Church  
Poole April 2024**

*Guided by the Holy Spirit we aim to show the love of God the Father for everyone by sharing the work of his Son, Jesus Christ, among our neighbours in Poole and the wider world.*



CCL544280

## *Dear Friends*

The windows at Skinner Street are decorated with the theme 'The Passion, The Glory and The Hope. Each illustration accompanied with a passage from the Gospels.

The first five tell the story of the Passion and whilst looking into what we could do I read the account of Simon of Cyrene carrying the cross for Jesus. And although mentioned in three of the four Gospels (Matthew 27:32, Mark 15:21 and Luke 23:26) as the man ordered by the Roman soldiers to carry the cross not a lot is known about him.

Matthew only records his name and place of origin, Mark and Luke both say that he was "on his way in from the country". Mark also provides the information that he was "the father of Alexander and Rufus", men obviously well known to Mark's readers.

Cyrene was situated in modern-day Libya, on the northern coast of the African continent so this has led to speculation as to whether he was of African descent and colouring or if he was simply born there as were many others of Greek, Roman, and Jewish descent.

But really, I think his colouring or descent is unimportant, the fact that he was ordered to carry the cross and did not, as far as we are told volunteer.

We do not know of the burdens or struggles Simon had himself or if he was just another spectator in the crowd without a thought of getting involved by helping ease Christ's suffering.

It made me think of the times we are asked to carry someone's burden. We have seen them struggle but have needed that nudge to help. Sometimes it can make such a difference to their life.

It may not be easy or comfortable at first but once we are there, there's something in helping and giving our time to others that makes all the difference.

Simple things like just listening as they get something off their chest that has been worrying them for some time, doing their shopping, offering a lift to church or a hospital appointment.

So, no matter how uncomfortable it is sometimes or how far out of our comfort zone it's going to take us, maybe we should just do it. And do it without requiring thanks or recognition.

We help because we can and because Jesus told us whatever we do for others we do for Him.

Words from the Gospel of Matthew chapter 25: 31-40

*<sup>31</sup> "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. <sup>34</sup> "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. <sup>35</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, <sup>36</sup> I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' <sup>37</sup> "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? <sup>38</sup> When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? <sup>39</sup> When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' <sup>40</sup> "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'*

May God's blessing be with you all

Tricia Knapp

## **WORSHIP IN APRIL      Sundays at 10.30am**

- 7<sup>th</sup>     Mrs Mary Chipping  
14<sup>th</sup>     The Elders ~ Café Style Worship  
21<sup>st</sup>     Mrs Tricia Knapp ~ ***Holy Communion***  
         Servers: Shirley Marden & Janice Williams  
28<sup>th</sup>     Mrs Mandy Hibbert

## **DUTY ELDER and VESTRY PRAYER**

- 7<sup>th</sup>     Muriel Coombes  
14<sup>th</sup>     Chris Proudley  
21<sup>st</sup>     Shirley Marden  
28<sup>th</sup>     Janice Williams

## **DOOR STEWARDS and OFFERTORY**

- 7<sup>th</sup>     Vera Brown  
14<sup>th</sup>     Wai Ching  
21<sup>st</sup>     Alan Knapp  
28<sup>th</sup>     Jill Campbell – Dyke

*Please let me know if you would be willing to join the Door Steward rota.TK*

## **THURSDAY PRAYERS 10.15am**

*(Followed by coffee and fellowship)*

- 4<sup>th</sup>     Vera  
11<sup>th</sup>     Sally  
18<sup>th</sup>     Simon  
25<sup>th</sup>     Tricia

## **Useful phone numbers**

For church matters or to discuss arrangements for a Baptism, Wedding or Funeral:  
Shirley Marden 07980 923217  
To arrange a Pastoral visit or Home Communion: Tricia Knapp 01202 632399  
For Hall Lets and Carpark: Gail Nuttall 07774 283179

## APRIL 2024 TREASURERS CHAT

Hello! I missed writing anything for March as I was on my travels 'down under' with my granddaughter, visiting friends and enjoying sun and warm weather. I came back to find a very wet Poole, which seems to be continuing. But with Easter here, we all hope that the weather may brighten up. And I am sitting at my computer writing this when it has just hailed!!

So life need never be dull. Skinner Street is working hard to brighten up the lives of all who have contact with us, be it on a Sunday morning at our services, Thursday morning prayers or the other activities that take place in our building. News of what is happening is in this newsletter and also on our website. Yes, we do have one.

On the finances, there was a large gas bill this quarter as the calculations were based on readings not quite up to date. This has been rectified. Income from our regular FreeWill giving, car park and hall user groups is holding up but if anyone can make a small increase, every little will help keep the church finances in a better place than last year.

We do have some planned, small, repair and maintenance work which we will be carrying out, together with the required Health and Safety checks needed to keep all safe and secure. However, there are some works that requires major expenditure. We are in ongoing discussions with the District and Synod on this.

Finally, thank you, especially to Shirley and Chris, who had all the work to cover when I was away. They did a great job but with so much to do when running a Church and building like Skinner Street, any offer of help is appreciated. The team we have is really great but there is space for more volunteers. If you would like to be a bit more involved, just give us a call/chat, we would love to get you on board.

Gail Nuttall Treasurer

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## Pastoral Notes

Sadly, being away for just 5 weeks saw a number of very good friends pass to greater heights, with others since my return. We think of all those left behind and send them our sincere condolences.

There are also those who are not well, have had accidents or with long term conditions.

*You are all firmly held in our prayers. We send you love. GN*  
One dear member and friend we said goodbye to was Peter Beeton who died at the beginning of March. His funeral will be 11am 12<sup>th</sup> April at Harbour View, The Lodge.



### What's on at Skinner Street in April

**Please Note:** The church meeting on April 4<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled and rescheduled for April 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

The church will be open on 2 dates in April to enable people from the surrounding area and churches to see and spend time reflecting on our church windows. The dates and times are Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> - 11am to 2pm and Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> - 11am to 4pm. Final arrangements are still to be made. Please see Gail or Tricia if you would like to help.



*Advice from a Cherry Tree  
Celebrate life's beauty  
Blossom in your own time  
Welcome each new day  
Spring forth with joy!*

## The month of April

April brings two dates that seem to stick' in our minds. All Fools Day on the 1<sup>st</sup> when we need to be on our guard and not be caught out by a simple prank and then towards the end of the month it is St. George's Day. In England we do not recognise our Patriot Saint as much as they do in Wales (St. David March 1<sup>st</sup>), Scotland (St. Andrew November 30<sup>th</sup>) and Ireland (St. Patrick March 17<sup>th</sup>)



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But who was St. George, and what did he do to become England's Patron Saint? Very little is known about St. George's life, but it is thought he was a high-ranking officer in the Roman army who was killed in around AD 303. It seems that the Emperor Diocletian had St. George tortured to make him deny his faith in Christ. However, despite some of the most terrible torture even for that time, St George showed incredible courage and faith and was finally beheaded near Lydda in Palestine.

His tomb can be found 25 miles Northwest of Jerusalem in the city of Lod. Stories of his strength and courage soon spread throughout Europe.

The best-known story about St. George is his fight with a dragon, but it is highly unlikely that he ever fought a dragon, and even more unlikely that he ever visited England, however his name was known here as early as the eighth century. Unfortunately, the many legends connected with St. George's name are fictitious, and the slaying of the 'Dragon' was first credited to him in the 12th century. St. George, so the story goes, killed a dragon on the flat topped Dragon Hill in Uffington, Berkshire, and it is said that no grass grows where the dragon's blood trickled down!

King Edward III made him the Patron Saint of England when he formed the Order of the Garter in St. George's name in 1350, and the cult of the Saint was further advanced by King Henry V, at the battle of Agincourt in northern France.

Shakespeare made sure that nobody would forget St. George, and has King Henry V finishing his pre-battle speech with the famous phrase, 'Cry God for Harry, England and St. George!'

*Article found on the Historic UK website*

# April Fools' Day?

Beyond spring as a season for fun, the main theory of its origin is that it dates back to the change from the old New Year observed on the March 25th Annunciation Feast of Christ's conception 9 months before Christmas. When nations began adopting the Jan. 1st New Year in the 1500s, people who refused to abandon the Mar. 25 New Year & its week-long celebration lasting to Apr. 1 were called April Fools~but is it foolish to celebrate the Incarnation for a whole week?

## Be a Fool for Christ

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## COMMUNITY CRAFT AND CHAT

For all ages)

At Skinner Street URC, Poole

On the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month next meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> April

Time 10am to 2pm

Enquiries: Tricia 07873133316 [hp.knapp@ntlworld.com](mailto:hp.knapp@ntlworld.com)

**Materials provided for knitting, crochet, cross-stitch and card making or  
bring your own and come for a chat!**

*Deadline for May newsletter Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April*



